

MARVEL

12

LGY#738

DONNY CATES

NIC KLEIN

MATT WILSON

THOR



prey
PART 4

THOR

THOR IS THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD. SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO RECENT TROUBLES, THOR ATTEMPTED TO TRADE PLACES WITH HIS OLD ALTER EGO, DONALD BLAKE. BUT BLAKE HAS GONE INSANE AND NOW SEEKS REVENGE ON ODIN AND ALL THOSE TOUCHED BY ODIN'S POWER. HE TRAPPED THOR IN A HIDDEN DIMENSION BENEATH THE ROOTS OF THE WORLD TREE—AND SENT THE REST OF ASGARD'S FORCES TO DIMENSION BLOOD!

BLAKE SOUGHT OUT JANE FOSTER ON MIDGARD BUT—NOT REALIZING SHE IS THE NEW VALKYRIE—DECIDED TO LEAVE HER BE WHILE HE SOUGHT OUT OTHERS POWERED BY ODIN'S MAGIC. OTHERS LIKE ROGER "RED" NORVELL. NOW NORVELL IS DEAD, AND JANE FACES A DIFFICULT TRUTH: THE BLAKE SHE KNEW AND LOVED IS GONE.

MEANWHILE, THE TELEPORTING DOG LOCKJAW, A LONGTIME ALLY OF ASGARD, HAS JOINED FORCES WITH YET ANOTHER THOR: THROG, THE FROG OF THUNDER! THEY SEEM TO HAVE BLAKE ON THE RUN, BUT SURELY THAT WON'T LAST...

“prey” PART FOUR OF SIX

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THOR created by **SCAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY**

Behold...

The ballad
of Simon
Walterson.

A mere mortal player of football
with a tragic past, magically
transformed into an amphibious
demigod after a chance
encounter with the mighty Thor!

Long has he reigned triumphant
in his wars against the forces
of rats and darkness.

Protecting all in his pond
kingdom--from toad to
squirrel to even the
lowliest of tadpoles.

And, at least once upon a
time, rescuing the very
fabric of humankind from
the clutches of the
dread titan Thanos.

PREY

PART FOUR OF SIX

Clawing, tooth and hammer
and nail, back-to-back with
the secret order of
Pet Avengers.

Let it be known, from here
to far beyond the ponds we
know, that the **thunder**
that hops has fought a
hundred battles and more.

And a hundred times and more, he
has left the battlefield silent,
barren, lightning-charred and
bloody at his back.

Let his story
be told...

For amongst those warriors
worthy to have worn the
mantle of Thor, none have
worn it more nobly and
savagely than he.

His name
is **Throg**.

May his rest be long and
his song be sung in the
halls of every heaven...



...on the distant day
that his battle is done...



...and not a
moment before.



...DAMN...

...FROG...



I KNOW NOT
WHY YOU HUNT ME.
ONLY THAT YOU WEAR
THE STOLEN FACE OF
A FRIEND. FOR THAT,
YOU SHALL
ANSWER.

BUT KNOW THIS.
PRECENDER: THROG IS
SPORT FOR NO ONE. NOT MAN
NOR DEMON NOR BEAST NOR FOWL.

YOU HAVE MADE YOUR
INTENTIONS TO HARM
ME AND MY ILK CLEAR.
NOW I HAVE MADE
MY REBUTTAL.

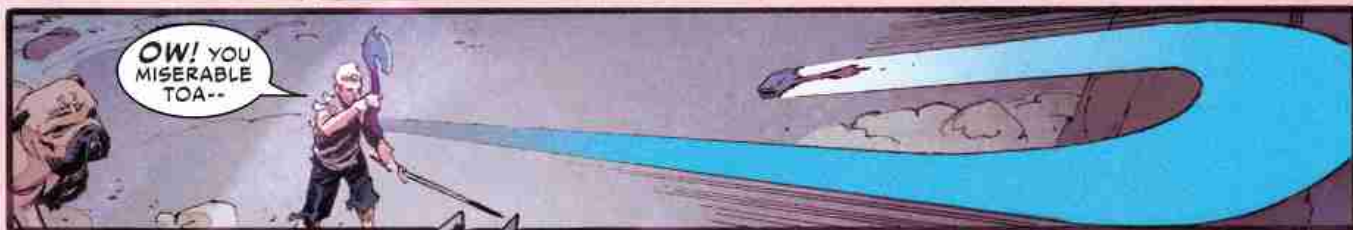
STAND
DOWN OR--
PUT
YOUR PADS UP
AND FIGHT. YOU
MISERABLE
TOAD!



VERY
WELL.
NOW
COMES THE
PAIN...

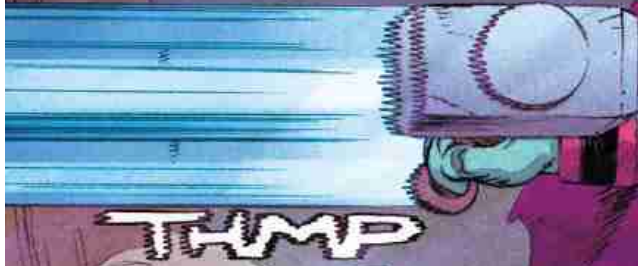


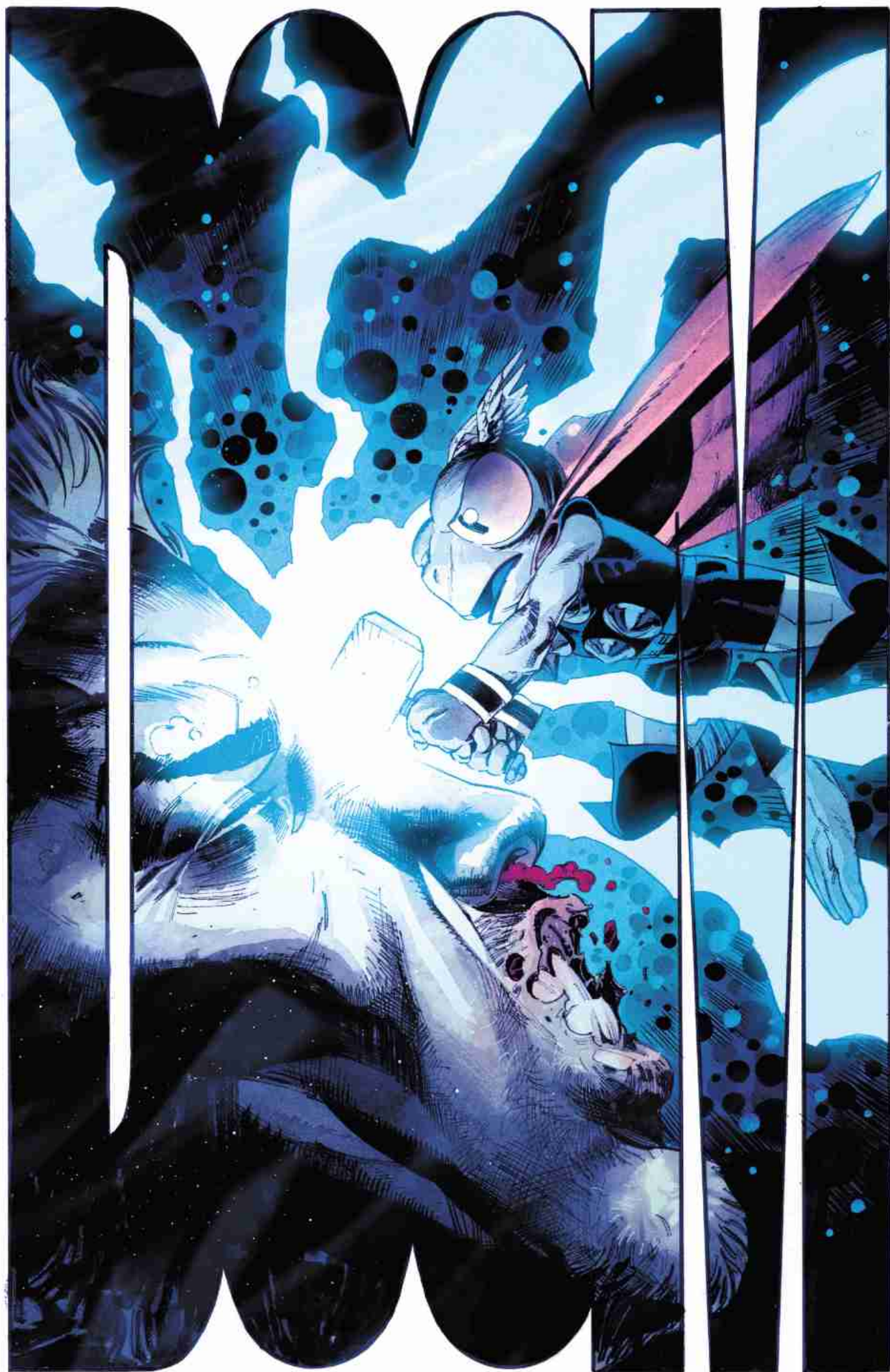


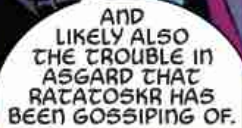
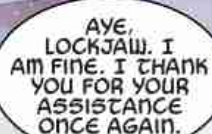




...WHERE
WERE WE,
MONSTER?







"...I'M AFRAID
HE NEEDS
A DOCTOR."

IT CAN'T
BE HIM!
IT JUST CAN'T.
DONALD WOULD
NEVER DO THESE
THINGS.

BUT WHO
ELSE COULD
IT BE, JANE?
THINK!

DONALD SUDDENLY APPEARS OUT OF
THIN AIR, ACTING LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO,
ASKING ABOUT ODIN AND THEN...

NO, NO, JANE.
YOU CAN'T THINK THAT.
YOU JUST...HAVE TO FIND
THOR. HE'LL KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

ONLY PROBLEM IS
NO ONE SEEMS TO
KNOW WHERE
THOR IS!

HI +SIGH+
YES, THIS IS IRON
MAN. HOWEVER, DUE
TO SOME BIG, BLOND
JERK, I NO LONGER
USE THIS NUMBER.
BUT HEY, NICE TRY
ANYWAY...



AND A QUICK
CHECK INTO THE
OLD VALKYRIE VISION
ISN'T GIVING ME ANY
CLUES EITHER!

IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY.
THE DOC WILL
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

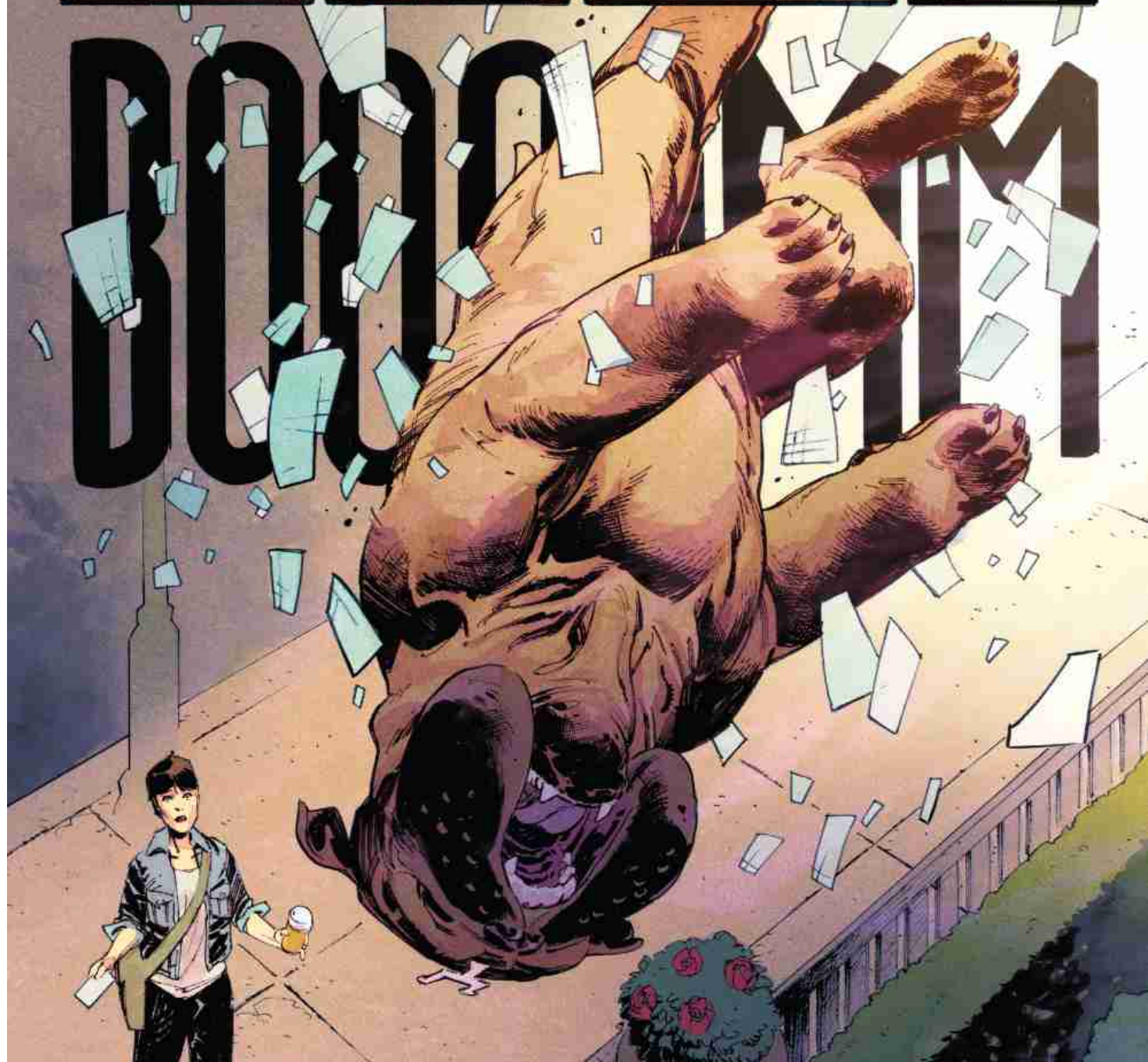
IF ANYONE
CAN MAKE SENSE
OF A BUNCH OF THORS
SUDDENLY FALLING OUT
OF THE SKY DEAD,
IT'S BOUND
TO BE--

RIP

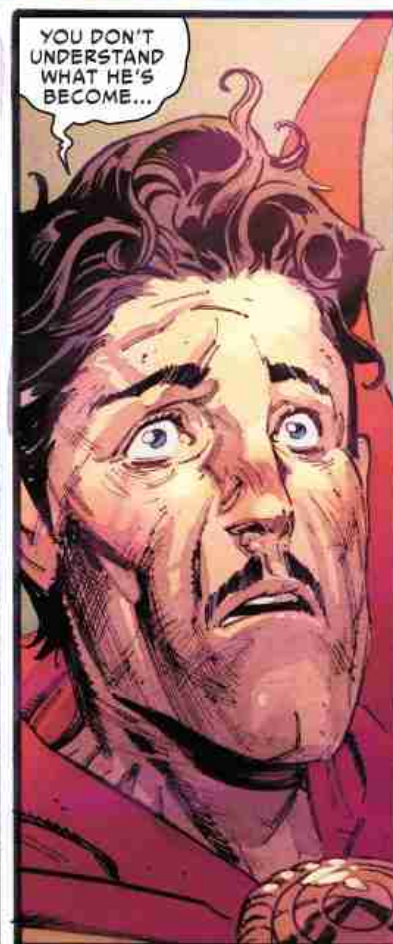
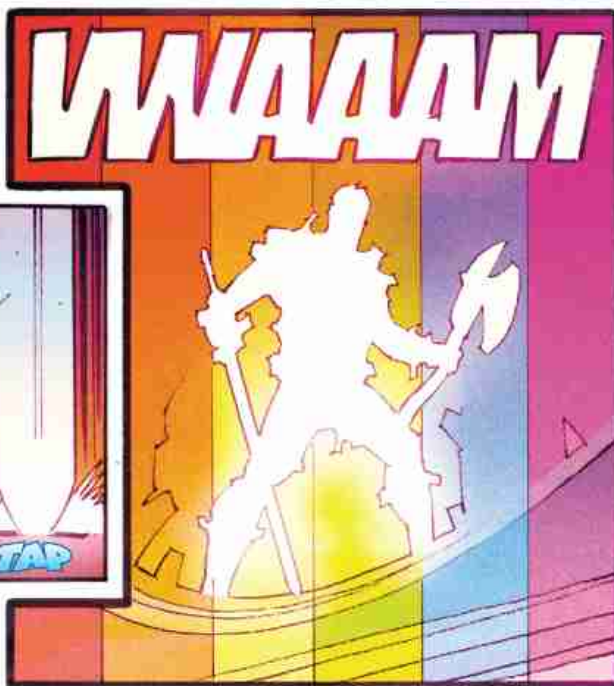
WHAT
THE--

RLOP









"HE'S BEEN HUNTING THOSE WITH ODIN-MAGIC. SLAUGHTERING AND DRAINING THEM FOR THE POWER THEY WIELD."

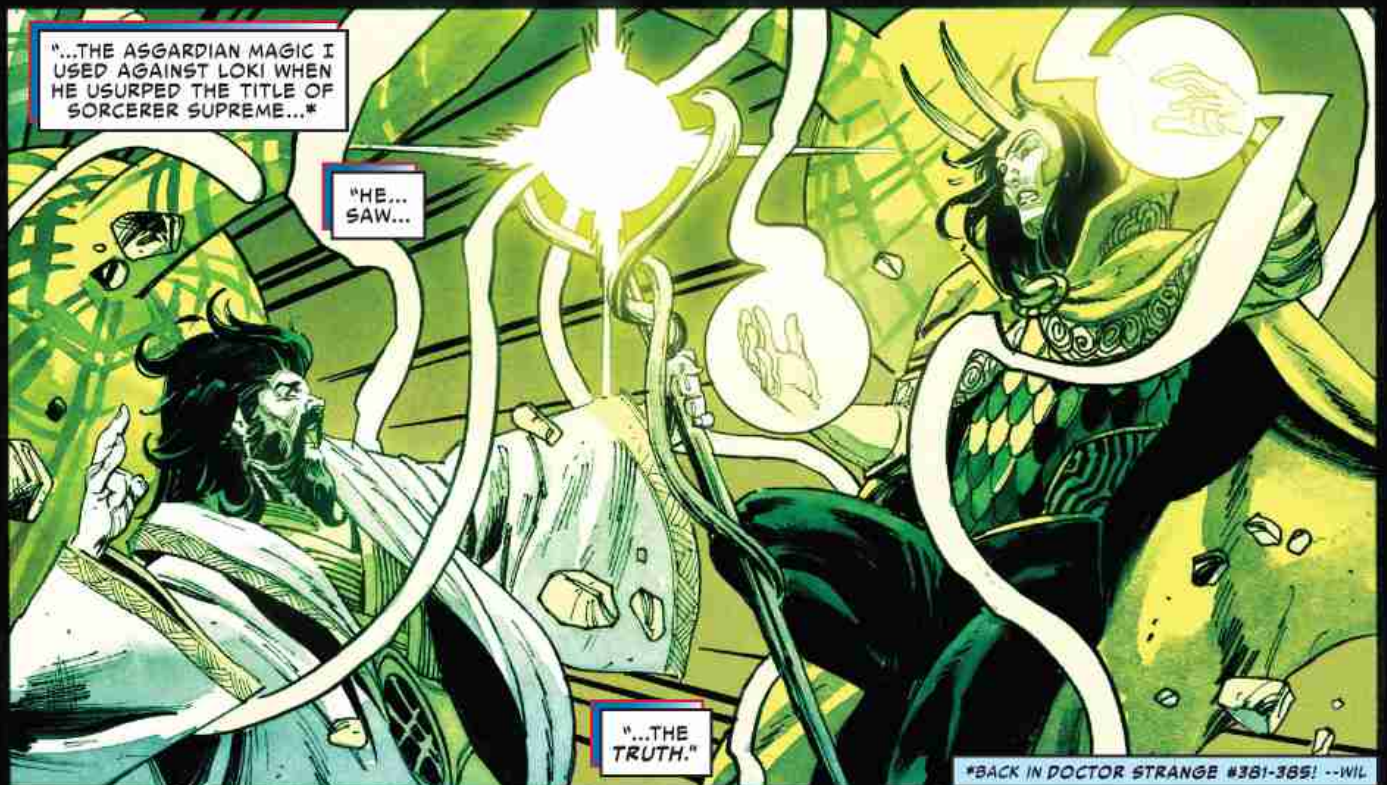


"AND...AND WHEN HE DISCOVERED THOSE SAME MAGICS IN ME..."



"...THE ASGARDIAN MAGIC I USED AGAINST LOKI WHEN HE USURPED THE TITLE OF SORCERER SUPREME..."

"HE... SAW..."



"...THE TRUTH."

*BACK IN DOCTOR STRANGE #381-385! --WIL

"YOU SEE, JANE..."

"...HE WON'T BE HUNTING ANYMORE..."

"...HE'S HEADING FOR THE SOURCE!!!"



"HE SAW IT. HE SAW HOW I GOT THAT POWER..."

"HE KNOWS..."

"no--"





...down...

...to the
world below.

Where they fall on
another son of Odin.
As he whispers
prayers to his
absent father...

...to his kingdom
lost.

YGGDRASIL...

no...

And yet...

...in this moment, these
raging sons of Odin, this
thunder god and his
shadow...

...are
united.

For their prayers,
both worthy and
whispered and
fury filled...

DONALD...
YOU...

...YOU
WILL PAY FOR
THIS...

...fall on deaf
ears alike.

Both sons
drowned by
a rain of
blood...

DO
YOU HEAR
ME?!

...both desperate...
both in need...

...of a messenger.

MR. HORSE!!!

JANE... NO, YOU CAN'T DO THIS. WHERE ARE YOU--

LOCKJAW, THROG, STEPHEN.

STAY.

FIND THOR.

ROOF! ROOF! HORSE, YOU'RE A BRAVE ONE TO SHOW YOUR FACE HERE. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT WHILE SINCE WE LAST BATTLED. BE ON YOUR WAY BEFORE I--

OH, AYE? LIKE THAT IS IT, YE TOFFEE-NOSED ROYALIST WAZZOCK? WELL, I MIGHT NOT BE 'ERE FOR THEE, LAD, BUT 'APPEN I'LL MAKE THE TIME--

HORSE. THAT'S ENOUGH.

THROG? AYE, WELL, IF THIS GREAT POSH PUDDIN'S WITH THEE, THAT'S DIFFERENT. JUST WATCH THYSELF, MIND--CHA CAN NEVER TRUST A TORY.

♫SIGH♫ I'LL BEAR THAT IN MIND.

JANE, PLEASE! LISTEN TO ME! YOU CAN'T FACE HIM! NOT ALONE.

OH, BELIEVE ME...

...I DON'T INTEND ON BEING ALONE.

SUDDENLY,
WORLDS AWAY...

And in the blink of an eye, Jane Foster
and her trusty steed--having scoured
the Ten Realms and every point in
between with the powers bestowed
upon her as the last of the Valkyries--

--have arrived
here...

...to deliver
a message.

STAY
HERE, HORSE...
THIS SHOULDN'T
TAKE LONG.

AYE,
CAREFUL,
THEN.

YOU!!!
I KNOW YOU
DON'T LIKE ME.
AND BELIEVE ME, OLD
MAN, THE FEELING
IS MORE THAN
MUTUAL...

IF YOU CAN
FIND YOUR WAY
OUT OF THE BOTTOM
OF YOUR CUP, IT'S
TIME YOU STOPPED
HIDING.

I'VE HAD
OF ENOUGH
DEALING WITH
YOUR ARROGANT
AND FOOL-
HEADED CHILDREN...

NOW...SOBER UP, OR
I'LL MAKE YOU SOBER
UP. YOU CAN'T HIDE
FROM THIS
ANYMORE...

PEOPLE ARE DYING.
YOUR SON IS IN
TROUBLE...

AND ALL
OF IT...EVERY
INCH OF IT...
IS YOUR
FAULT.

SO SADDLE
UP...YOU'RE
COMING WITH
ME...



IT'S TIME
YOU CLEANED
UP YOUR
MESS...

ODIN.

TO BE CONTINUED...

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Well, Muninn, we are back again. I swear these mortals will write until their hands fall off. Seems the year that just ended has left them with a lot of time on their hands. 'Tis such a momentous occasion for mortals when the Earth rotates the sun! Such strange creatures they are.

Aye, but let them have their fun. Why, I think it innocent they enjoy such simple events. Besides, it's nice to be such popular birds among them! We should be honored to pass along their words to the All-Father. For if they work to write so much, we must work hard as well for the safety of Asgard.

All right, all right, Muninn. You are right...even if I don't like saying it.

Ah, Huginn, to hear those words come from your own beak, I—

Enough! Our first letter!

Hi—like many, I have been reading comics for years. However, I had never picked up a Thor issue or cared to. That all changed when a local comic book shop suggested to read Mr. Cates' work. I was simply mesmerized and hypnotically taken away to a world I wish I had given a chance earlier. I want to thank all those involved in the book as this comic run has truly enriched my life and introduced me to a character that I would have never read otherwise. This book has helped me through the chaos of the pandemic by giving me an escape and something positive to look forward to every issue. The world needs more people like Donny Cates.

You're truly a mage. A big thank-you.

Ravi S. Clearwater
British Columbia, Canada

Ah, welcome, mortal! We are honored that you have been introduced to our All-Father. We here shall pass along your words to Donny Cates! For he loves to hear the praises! We know you mortals have had a tough time in Midgard.

Though a year in mortal time is but a blink to Asgardians...

Huginn! Show some respect! This mortal scribe writes wonderful

words about our Donny Cates! Why, I also think Donny writes of our glorious tales the best! 'Tis easy to see why he was handpicked by All-Father Thor himself!

You just like that Donny gives you treats! I see him sneak them to you!

Hmph! Well, keep reading, Ravi! For there is much more in store!

Huginn & Muninn,

Of all the scribes of Asgard, Donny Cates must possess ultimate favor. To hold the pen to scribe this tale of Donald Blake gone rogue is an honor indeed! What must it have been like to witness Blake's madness firsthand? May the All-Father Thor be resurrected from Jormungand's realm so that Blake might rue the day! Many thanks Asgard must have for Jane Foster. Blake appears to stalk Thor's brethren. Thors have begun to fall. Surely Jane Foster, Valkyrie and worthiest of all Thors, shall be the Thor to upend this madness and restore All-Father Thor to his throne. You must forgive this Midgardian for his babbling. The affairs of the gods enthrall the mind.

Yours from afar,
Scott J. Toney
of the Midgard land of Pittsburgh

But of course! Our own Asgardian gods are magnificent. Why, I am still in awe of them myself! A bird never gets tired of casting our eyes on their beauty and grace. Truly, they are a sight to behold! We hope our own Jane Foster, who holds the title of Valkyrie so well, can help in these tumultuous times! For she and Throg seem to have a plan up their sleeves! We hope this will be good news for Thor and the others!

Aye! We hope to see the day Donald Blake pays for this transgression! Such disrespect to the All-Father! Why, in all my years, I have never seen such blatant disregard for the sanctity of Asgard and the throne! And this bird has seen a lot, I tell you! Why, if I see Donald here, I would give him a piece of this bird's wing!

Oh, please, Huginn! Leave the fighting to Jane and the others! They are far better suited than we birds! We have our jobs to do as well!

Such are the words of a scared bird. Hui, Muninn?

I do not know what you mean! I simply trust in All-Father Thor, Lady Sif and our own Jane Foster! On to the next, shall we?

Dear Thunderous Thor Team,

I usually don't write in to comics but my professor (let's arbitrarily call him Bill) said that if I was able to get a letter into any comic, he would give me extra credit. So of course I had to write to this series, which by the way, is actually one of my favorite reads of 2020. Although, King in Black has a slight lead due to its absolute insanity. The art and writing are good, but more importantly, Muninn and Huginn do an excellent job over in the letter column. I mean, what would we do without them? There would be no letters! And without those letters, I wouldn't be able to get extra credit from Professor Bill. So thanks so much for taking the time to read my letter and every other letter that makes its way into these mythical pages.

Sincerely,
Evan Burke

What is this "extra credit" you speak of? Such oddities mortals are. You receive extra praise? Haha! Well, let me be the first to say, enjoy your praise. Your mentor—though to arbitrarily throw around such a wonderful name as Bill—he is very wise indeed to let you share in our tales! A worthy mentor indeed! But, more importantly, such marvelous words of us birds! Muninn, this mortal sees the hard work we put in! You are most welcome. For you are right, mortal! Midgard would be lost without us to answer their calls!

That King in Black does sounds terrifying. I have heard whispers of his appearance! I do hope he does not come to Asgard. We have enough problems! Though experiencing the dark will of Donald Blake is just as terrifying for a mere bird! Why, I think if the All-Father were here, that King in Black would be no trouble for him!

Here, here! All-Father Thor would easily vanquish him! Pfft! Midgardians are scared of so many things! I hear even their shadows can frighten them. Haha!

Rumor has it that Stan Lee, Larry Lieber and Jack Kirby started to panic a little in the late spring of 1962. The Fantastic Four had been released in 1961 and the Incredible Hulk in early 1962.

The Amazing Spider-Man was set to appear in (cover dated) August of 1962. What hero could they do now that would exceed their previous efforts? Apparently Stan said to Larry and Jack, "Make the next comic about God. Like, you know, a super-god!"

To Jack's credit, he didn't use the Judeo/Christian god of the Bible. That might have been a bridge too far! Instead the three introduced a Norse god—the Mighty Thor, cover dated August 1962. It was that flash of genius that led us to the work of Donny Cates today. Cates has made Thor all his own. The return to Oklahoma was stellar. Thor's battle with Dr. Don Blake is epic.

With Thor and Venom, Cates has now taken his place with the "Killer Bees": Bendis, Busiek and Brubaker. Job well done, Mr. Cates, and to all your artists.

Stan, Jack and Larry would've been proud of your recent work!

Long may you run!
Rabbi Steve Lebow
Rabbi Emeritus
Marietta, GA

A high honor indeed to be compared to such legends! Donny Cates will surely love to hear this!

Could not agree more, Muninn! He works so hard to get the details just right! Almost as hard as we work, wouldn't you agree?

Huginn...this is nothing compared to the beautiful, sophisticated writing that is Donny Cates. It is an honor to have Donny working tirelessly to transcribe the All-Father's tales!

Oh, Muninn, couldn't you let me have my moment for once?!

Hello, ravens,

THOR #10 was phenomenal and so very thematic, as classics always are. I love the twist on Donald Blake, plucking him from nostalgia and creating him into something so much fiercer. He is a wonderful mirror of Thor. I love the inclusion of Beta Ray Bill and hope it is not his last. Bill's nobility and bravery is only matched by Thor's. The art of Nic Klein is tremendous and worthy of Asgard. This issue is another winner by Cates

and has made a Thor lifer out of me. I bow to this issue's brilliance!

Jeff Haas
Warwick, RI

We shall accept your humble praise and bow! I never have had someone bow to me before, 'Tis a good feeling.

Well, Huginn, better keep that dream—that bow obviously wasn't for you! But to our dear Nic Klein and Donny Cates! Their work together has been wondrous! We love being able to see it happen firsthand! Nic Klein even allowed a mere raven such as I watch him draw. Truly, a great occasion!

Aye, I do enjoy having Beta Ray Bill around as well. Such an astounding warrior. He is a true asset to Asgard! And I do not share such high praise with just anybody.

Huginn, we made it through another batch!

Hmph, good. I thought they would never stop coming!

Spoke too soon. Another one has fallen into our laps. Seems that will have to wait till next time though! We must now keep a watchful eye on the events unfolding!

Indeed. My beak hurts!

NEXT ISSUE:



